

# HAMMATEUR CHATTER

The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club since 1917

January, 1999 Vol. 07 No. 01

## club officers

President----- 529-5583  
 Dave DeFebo ---- WB9BWP

1st V. Pres. ----- 475-6404  
 Matt Planning ---- KB9PRC

2nd V. Pres. ----- 548-6138  
 Brian White ----- KB9LCQ

Secretary 1 (414) 968-2724  
 Jim Tromblay ---- WB9LNU

Treasurer ----- 796-0969  
 Ken Eggert ----- W9MOT

### Board of Directors

Mark Bye----- KB9LDX  
 (97-99)----- 447-8090

Pancho Doneis KA9OFA  
 (97-99)----- 344-4634

Rick Kissell ---- WB9GYT  
 (97-99)----- 643-8039

Rich McNew --- WB9PTC  
 (98-00)----- 453-6781

Gerald Melotik - KC9EV  
 (98-00)----- 358-0107

????----- ??????  
 (98-00)----- ???-????

## From the President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP



Dave DeFebo

**I**t's been almost 2 months since last we spoke, so there is lots to talk about. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. Maybe you got that new radio you have been drooling over for Christmas. Maybe you made some New Year's resolutions (like maybe to do some work for the club?).

The club had another successful Christmas Party back in December. If you missed it, you missed some good food, drink, good music and good people. Bob Glamm W9UGN, even came up from Florida for the party (actually not just for the party).

This year every couple or single attending was given a poinsettia. We had a few bottles of wine which were awarded as well as an original painting donated by our former President, and current artist Harry Cieszki K4VKW (ex-KD9AJ). Barbara Brewer, KB9TIV, a new member won the painting. Congratulations Barbara. Thanks to Harry for donating it.

We ran out of time at the November meeting to discuss it, so this is the official introduction of a contest

continued on page 2

## Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHZ	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida Net (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	Wis. Slow Speed CW Traffic Net
MON-FRI	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
MON	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
MON	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
MON	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
TUE	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd shifter's Net
TUE	7:00 PM	442.200	General Racine N9OEZ repeater
TUE	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
TUE	8:00 PM	7.035	A..F.A.R. Net (CW)
WED	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
THU	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
THU	9:00 PM	146.910	Computer Net

FRI	8:45 PM	28.490	W9RH 10 meter MRAC Station Net (SSB)
FRI	9:15 PM	147.045	W9RH 2 mtr. net following the 10 mtr. net
SAT	9:00 PM	146.910	Saturday Nite Fun net
SUN	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr. 55) (SSB)
SUN	10:00 AM	443.800	FM-38 Link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
SUN	8:00 PM	28.365	10-10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
SUN	8:00 PM	146.910	Information Net
SUN	9:00 PM	146.910	Swap Net

The 2 meter frequencies are -600 khz offset FM repeaters. FM38 is +5 Mhz offset, tone 114.8. The 10 meter frequencies are upper sideband (USB). If there are additions, changes, or corrections to this list, please contact: Pancho KA9OFA at 344-4694 or call 466-HAMS.

for a club logo. The club does not have an official logo. Any business who wishes to convey a professional image must have a logo. Something that people will recognize at a glance. Something that symbolizes the organization. We have been kicking around tee shirts, jackets, all sorts of things over the years. We even tried to get a logo. Nothing happened. Now we want to get serious. In order to have any shirts, hats, whatever, we need an attractive, informative and official logo. How do we get one? Let's ask the members. Let's have a contest to get the best logo. The logo would find itself on t-shirts, embroidered patches of varying sizes, coffee cups, shorts, envelopes, socks, letterheads, whatever. In order to have a contest, there must be a prize. The winner will receive 1 free year of club membership. Have some graphics ability and want to give it a shot? Contact the Logo Committee. Who's that you ask? Matt Planning KB9PRC, our 1st vice president (who was looking into tee shirts), or Al Drobac KB9NRS (who was looking into patches) or (we need a third name here). All entries must be submitted by March 18, 1999 (date of March club meeting). We will have an official logo by the April meeting and then commence to order up shirts, patches, whatever.

ARRL director elections have come and gone. I was afraid having 3 people running would split up the vote and that is exactly what happened. Final results were: David Klatzco 1297, Henry Ruh 1468, and Ed Metzger 1846. Personally I look at this as 2765 people against Metzger and only 1846 for (out

of 12,000 central division league members), but he is the director. I am composing a letter to request him to be featured speaker at an upcoming club meeting. Watch this space for the results of that communication. By the way, good or bad, Klatzco has already expressed his intentions to run again in 2000.

We are in desperate need of a volunteer or two or three to handle 'Chatter mailings. All you have to do is pick up copies from the printer, attach mailing labels (provided by Brian White) and stamps and drop in the mail. Anyone interested, please contact me as soon as possible.

Work is progressing on repeater improvements. We still do not have a super deluxe site (it is still at Ed's house), but it is working better. While it does not have statewide coverage, I can get in from my home in Muskego and Jim can get in from Genesee and Roger Zaun can get in from Mequon, so just about any member should be able to get in. When I say get in, I do not mean HT into a rubber duck on the living room couch (unless you happen to be on Ed's couch), but I can use 10 watts into a gain antenna. The repeater is quiet most of the time. Feel free to use it (and don't forget about the Friday night round table net around 9:00 PM or so after the 10 meter net) and report any problems or successes to Ed or any other board member.

By the time you read this the date for comments and reply comments on FCC proposal 98-143 will have past. Around 2000 people responded with comments. That is a pretty poor showing for 600,000 hams and a proposal to make major licens-

ing changes. The FCC should be coming out with a final proposal sometime this year. If you did not comment, forever hold your peace.

It is not often we have a meeting set up 3 months in advance. It is even more rare to have someone from the ARRL come to a club meeting. Both things happen in March. Bart Jahnke W9JJ, Manager of ARRL VEC (ARRL is a VEC just like MRAC) as well as 1 of only 3 people on the VEC question pool committee (the people who actually create the questions you see on amateur license tests) will be the featured speaker. To accommodate Bart's schedule, we will move our meeting up 1 week to Thursday March 18, 1999. We almost never see real ARRL employees out here let alone get a chance to really talk to one. Here is our chance to find out about league things as well as to have our voices (from out in lowly Wisconsin) heard. As always our meetings are open to anyone, club member or not, licensed or not. Since this is sort of a special meeting, be sure ALL area hams, clubs, anyone, knows about the meeting. The room is plenty big, so let's get the word out and see a large crowd for the March meeting.

By the way, you might wish to know that in order to get Bart Jahnke here to Milwaukee, we have to pay for his plane tickets, hotel room and meals. Keep this in mind when the ARRL asks for additional money.

See you at the meeting,

*David B. Metzger*

Dave WB9BWP

# A

activities  
(ham)

## CLUB MEETINGS

### Milwaukee Radio Amateur's Club

Last Thursday of the month 7:30 p.m.  
Redemption Lutheran Church  
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI

### Ozaukee Radio Club

Second Wed. of each month  
7:30 p.m.  
Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center  
Grafton, WI

## CLUB MEETINGS continued

### Menomonee Falls Amateur Club

Last Wed of the month  
Doors open @ 7:00 p.m. Mtg. @ 7:30 p.m.  
Bank One Bldg. @  
Pilgrim Rd. and Mequon Rd.  
Germantown, WI

### Miller Valley Radio Amateur Club

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.  
at 703 N. 39th St.,  
just north of (and almost under)  
the Wis. Ave. viaduct.  
For info contact: Art - WA9AWJ  
(found daily on the 146.91 repeater).

### South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club

First Wednesday of each month  
American Legion Post 434  
9327 S. Sheppard Ave.  
Oak Creek, WI  
Auction at March & October mtgs.

### West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Meets the second Tuesday of each month  
at 8:00 p.m.  
At St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
7929 W. Lincoln Ave.  
West Allis, WI

## HAM CLUB ACTIVITIES

**CQ Third Tuesday**  
11:00 a.m.  
Old Country Buffet  
164<sup>th</sup> and Bluemound

Y'all come(!) to the  
**MRAC HAM BREAKFAST**  
every Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at  
Maxim's Restaurant  
18025 W. Capitol Dr. (a bit west of Calhoun).  
Prices are reasonable, the food good, and the  
company excellent.

### First Friday Fish Fry

Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma Ave. Call:  
Warren - K9IZV on the 146.91 - offset for  
reservations by noon on that FRI.

### W9RH-10 & 2 METER NETs

W9RH Ten Meter Net 8:45 PM at 28.490  
MHz. SSB Friday evenings at 9:15 2 meter FM  
repeater at 147.045 + offset. We'd like to meet  
you there.



# E

events  
(upcoming)

\* indicates VE testing

### 32<sup>ND</sup> MID WINTER HAMFEST \*

**SUN - JAN. 24, 1999**  
the Odeum Exposition Center  
Villa Park, IL  
T/I 145.390

### DAVENPORT RADIO CLUB HAMFEST/COMPUTER SHOW

**SUN FEB. 14, 1999**  
QCCA Expo Center  
Rock Island, IL  
T/I on 146.28-88 Alt. 14604-64

### RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION AUCTION

**TUE - FEB. 23, 1999**  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 53  
EAU CLAIRE, WI

### SEWFARS SWAPFEST

**SUN.-MAR. 7, 1999**  
Waukesha County Expo Center  
Waukesha, WI  
T/I on 146.820 PL127.3 rpt.

### 1999 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

**SUN - MAR. 14, 1999**

### TRI-COUNTY ARC

**HAMFEST 1999**  
**SUN - MAR. 21, 1999**  
Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
Jefferson, WI

### TOLEDO MOBIL RADIO ASSOCIATION

**HAMFEST/ COMPUTER FAIR**  
**SUN - MAR 21, 1999**  
Lucas Cty Recreation Center  
Maumee, OH  
T/I on 147.27+ or 443.85+

### MADISON SWAPFEST

**SUN - APR. 11, 1999**  
MIDDLETON CONFERENCE CENTER  
MIDDLETON, WI

### CEDARBURG SWAPFEST SAT - MAY 1, 1999

Circle B Recreation Center  
Cedarburg, WI  
T/I on 146.37/97 and 146.52 simp.

### LAKESHORE HAMFEST

**SAT - MAY 8, 1999**  
Manitowoc County Expo  
Manitowoc, WI

### SMARC SWAPFEST '99

**SAT - JULY 10, 1999**  
American Legion Post 434  
Oak Creek, WI  
T/I 146.52 simp.

### EAU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**HAMFEST**  
**SAT - JUL 10, 1999**  
Eau Claire, WI

### FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE HAMFEST \*

**SUN - JUL 18, 1999**  
Sugar Grove, IL  
T/I on 147.210 + (PL103.5)

### RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW

**SUN - JULY 25, 1999**  
South Hills Country Club  
Racine, WI



# Silent Keys

**A**nother Silent Key for MRAC - Philip Lehmann - KB9FOQ Phil was a contributing member to our Club. He helped the W9RH / MRAC school take place at the Village at Manor Park. Phil lived at the Park so he got the auditorium for our school and the basement halls for our code class. When the Park Manor remodeled its auditorium into office space Phil then obtained the board room for our testing session each month. Whenever MRAC was there Phil would walk over to the school and testing session with his red and white cane. He would ask how many students or upgrades we had. Everyone

enjoyed seeing his smile from ear to ear as he would say, "Goodnight" to all of us. Thanks to Phil - KB9FOQ, a Friday night net check in member, a friend and fellow ham.

*Ed Wille*

Ed Wille - W9PWG, VEC

**S**ilent Key-KB9FOQ Philip S. Lehmann, age 85, retired from Weyenberg Shoe Co., died Nov. 30, 1998, at the Congregational Home. Born in Hustisford, WI, he was a graduate of Wauwatosa High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison according to his son. Being a resident of Elm

Grove from 1954 to 1989, he was a charter member of Elm Grove Fire Department and a longtime member of Community United Methodist Church. For many years he was an active operator of HAM radio. He also was a member of the Kiwanis Golden Key Club of Elm Grove. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kahryn M. (Haslinger). In addition to his son, Richard A. of Madison, he is survived by daughter, Jean L. Harle of Cleveland; sister, Ruth Flick of Stevens Point; and friend Mildred Trost of Greenfield. A memorial service was held Dec. 5, 1998 at community United Methodist Church.  
by Pancho - KA9 OFA



W9PWG at SuperFest

**S**ilent Key Edward F. Wille - W9PWG died peacefully at home Thurs., Jan. 14, 1999, age 74, preceded in death by his loving wife, Ruth. He was the loving father and friend of Susan, also loved by other relatives and friends.

Ed was past president of MRAC for eight years and was on the Board of Directors since. He was a driving force behind the Club. He was there for all the special events, Field Day(s), Christmas parties, meetings, etc. He was responsible for getting our repeater and was instrumental in keeping it operating. He was also the VEC (Volun-

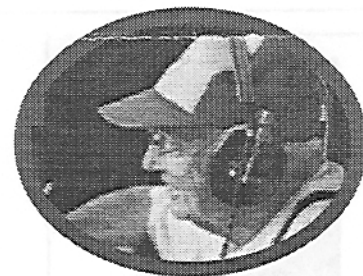
teer Examination Coordinator) for our Club as well as general errand boy for the Club. He was instrumental in getting the HamateurChatter printed every month. He was the lubricant to in the wheels of the club and did much to bring the Ham community closer together. Ed was the spirit of HAM Radio here in Milwaukee.

He'll be missed by all.

Pancho - KA9OFA

**D**ick Schlatterer - KA9MTY became a Silent Key at 4 AM, 10 January 1999. Dick was born the 6th of March 1929. He had a heart attack in early September and did not spring back to his usual self. He was an active member of St. Marks Ev. Lutheran Church on N. 60th Street south of Brown Deer Road.

Dick was active in the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club since October 1982. He must have been licensed around 1980. His



KA9MTY at Field Day

interest in ten meters grew and grew when he started collecting 10-10 numbers. One year the International Ten-Ten Convention was held in Milwaukee and Dick was one of several that was responsible for getting it here. For a number of years he would hold the 10-10 picnic at his house and send out post cards to generate interest. Everyone he talked to on the air liked him because "he cared" even though they had never met him.

He will be missed by all who knew him.

73,

Jerry Thompson - WA9SFH



## MRAC Board Meeting 11/16/98

The November meeting was held one week early due to Thanksgiving. The meeting was called to order at 7:08 at (KB9LDX) Mark's QTH.

Meeting minutes were taken by Matt due to the secretary's absence. Treasurer's report — Liquid assets \$3621.28 plus \$6K in CD's.

Discussion on the possibility of Bart Jahnke of the VEC group coming to a club meeting in March on the 18th or 19th. A motion was made and seconded to pay for Bart's trip if we can get him to come. Ed will check on the availability of the church since Bart would be coming one week earlier than our normal meeting date. More info on this in next month's 'Chatter.

Jerry Melotic - KC9EV made a motion that we donate \$100 to the church at this year's end. The motion was seconded by Rick - WB9GYT.

Motion to renew Smoke Signals for 3 years and seconded by Pancho. Pancho uses info from Smoke Signals for our 'Chatter with credit to the source, of course.

Motion to try a 1 year trial subscription to ARNS. Seconded by Jerry.

Next board meeting possible location, Rick - WB9GYT.

KB9NRS, a guest to the meeting presented some ideas he has on having a club patch (for jackets, etc.) made. A suggestion was made to have 3 members get together with Al and formulate a final plan for the patch and re-

search the prices.

The majority of board members voted not to have the ARRL logo on the patch. Anyone who wants to display the ARRL logo can do so by buying an ARRL patch.

Add on's such as VE or Field Day were discussed. More on this at the next board meeting.

Ed told of the sad news of the death of Fred Krause - W9VLK.

Final discussion on the Christmas party.

The meeting adjourned.

Minutes were taken by Matt WB9PRC and entered into the club's records by Jim - WB9LNU.

*Jim WB9LNU*  
Secretary

## MRAC Christmas Party Dec., 98

Just a few words on the Christmas party. A Buffet dinner was served consisting of roast beef and chicken with all the fixings.

Approximately 80 showed up, including several people from other local clubs.

Dave gave a short talk on the state of the club and thanked as many members that he could think of for all their help this past year. Special mention went to Ed W9PWG for all the extra efforts he makes to provide the PA system and VCR, etc.: that are needed to make our monthly

meetings a success.

Flowers were purchased this year as a gift to each couple who came to the party instead of small electronic gifts. A painting donated to the club by Harry Cieszki - K4VKW was given as the evenings grand prize. Ken W9MOT also donated 6 bottles of wine to be given away as a prize.

ED - W9PWG and Bob Glamm - W9UGN reminded us of our silent keys this year. It was a very nice party and everyone had a wonderful time.

*Jim WB9LNU*  
Jim - WB9LNU



## Looking 4

Rick - WB9GYT is looking for a new or used 10 or 11 m whip antenna (preferably with a roof mount). He can be reached at 643-8039 or rkissell@execpc.com.

## For Sale or Trade

Kenwood TS830 with VFO230, Power Mod using 6143W-150 watt output 4K 88c CW Filter, Service Manual.

Asking \$600.00 or will trade for personal computer of equal value.

Sus - KB9OC @ (414) 466-3450



# MRAC Club Meeting 11/19/98

The meeting was called to order at 7:35.

Previous meeting minutes were read and corrected.

Treasurers report -- \$3621.28  
Liquid assets \$9621.28 total with CD's.

Ken also reminded everyone that club dues are due by January 1st. You will not receive a Chatter after February if you do not pay the dues."

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Dave reminded everyone that the deadline to register for the Christmas dinner is December 9 and the party will be December 13 at Aliotos.

Dave sent some invitations to some other local club officers to invite them to the party.

In March we will start a new list for a new club roster. Also in March, we are trying to invite Bart Johnke, the VEC group leader or the new winner of the ARRL di-

vision election. The members have requested that the talk be on the new FCC license restructuring. And of course if Bart comes, we will also hear about the latest developments in the VEC program.

Dave also reminded everyone that the ARRL and the FCC are still looking for your comments on the new license structure proposals.

Roger W9UVV, informed everyone that the ARRL is asking individuals and clubs to donate money to the Defend Our Frequencies Fund. Since the ARRL is our major voice on this subject we should seriously consider helping out. Dave asked the members if we should send some money on behalf of the club. Vern Teske - W9RYA made a motion that the club donate \$200.00 and the motion was seconded. A discussion on the pro's and con's of donating the money followed.

Rick WB9GYT voiced his displeasure with the ARRL and lack of help on the Milwaukee tower ordinance problem. The group over all decided that this is a worth while cause and voted YES to sending the money. Dave so ordered the Treasurer to send the check on behalf of MRAC.

Ed -- VE testing has been canceled at the South Wauwatosa Bank due to lack of people showing up to be tested. All testing will be at AES.

Don't forget the West Allis Club swap fest on Jan. 9 at the Waukesha Expo Center.

Dave -- Gave last minute thanks to all that have helped run the club this past year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim WB9LNU*

Jim - WB9LNU, Secretary

## VE HAM RADIO EXAMS

VEC Report - We had a testing session at the Swapfest on Saturday - Jan. 9th with a pretty good turnout. We had 21 to take tests. 13 passed for new or upgraded licenses, 3 failed and the rest were given CSCE's.

Our VE's were:

John Merkl ----- WB9PSE

Jim Tromblay ----- WB9LNU

Dick McNew ----- WB9PTC

Ken Eggert ----- W9MOT

Jerry Thompson --- WA9SFH

Ed Wille ----- W9PWG

was the VEC



## VE HAM RADIO EXAMS

Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to: Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club P.O. Box 25707 Milwaukee, WI 53225 For more information call: 466-HAMS

If you have questions about a new license or upgrade, you may call the FCC at: 1-888-225-5322.

Last Sat. of Each Month

9:30 A.M. - Noon @

Amateur Electronics Supply

5700 W. Good Hope Rd.

Milwaukee, WI

You will not be permitted to take the exam without these items:

- 1) Your original license (if you have one) and one photocopy of it.
- 2) Any CSCE's you may have (and a photocopy of each).
- 3) Two forms of identification (examples: driver's license and social security card)
- 4) \$6.45 (exam fee).

Walk-ins welcome, but pre-registration is encouraged if possible. To register in advance, send a post card on which you have printed the grade of license for which you are applying, your name, address and telephone number to:

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club

P.O. Box 25707

Milwaukee, WI 53225

For more information call:

466-HAMS

If you have questions about a new license or upgrade, you may call the FCC at: 1-888-225-5322

# Our People

## February Birthdays

	Birthdate
Beverly A. Baum -----	KB9KXX... 02/03
Roman J. Hudzinski -----	W9JPS ..... 02/05
Richard J. Scarvaci -----	K9CAN ..... 02/07
Gordon H. Weiler -----	W9ZQK ..... 02/07
Ted R. Stiller -----	WA9RDI .... 02/11
Gordon J. Feder -----	W9YFW .... 02/11
Michael J. Plichta -----	KB9OSB .... 02/15
Gary A. Ertel -----	WB9AON .. 02/16

	Birthdate
Bernard D. Moores -----	K9KLM ..... 02/17
Charles C. Dawson -----	W9CUW .... 02/17
Robert L. Hensiak -----	N9VTN ..... 02/20
John H. Kopmeier Jr -----	N9ZJD ..... 02/20
William F Brossmann -----	W9EQP ..... 02/20
Roger J. Kanieski -----	N9RK ..... 02/25
James O. Zabel -----	W9KNZ 02/25/40
William C Fullhart -----	N9IBU ... 02/27/37

73 de KB9LCQ73, Brian

# !! Happy Birthday !!

### NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles and information for the newsletter should be received by the editor no later than the first of the month of publication. If received after the first of the month, its inclusion in that month's edition cannot be guaranteed. Your cooperation is appreciated. Please mail submissions to:

HamateurChatter  
Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA  
1958 N. 38th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Thanks to our news contributors this month:

KB9BWP	KB9LCQ	WB9OC
KB9GYT	WB9LNU	W9PWG
NX1K		WA9SFH

Thank you very much!

### Editor's Notes

Well, here it is again, another new year. We've just had our christmas party after a very full year and made noise to ring in the new year.

Now what?

Do we just look back at what we did last year or look forward to how we can improve things during the the next 11 or 12 months?

How can we improve things for THIS year - - HAM-wise? - Club-wise? - Public service-wise?

WE can make a difference, if we REALLY want to. It will take a little time and a little energy, but we can - - REALLY!

What we need is a few stout hearted people to VOLUN-

TEER. There are a good many things a person could do to improve things. Some of them wouldn't take a lot of time or energy.

REMEMBER, you only get out of a thing (such as the Club) what you are willing to put into it. Ask anyone who volunteers, just how rewarding it really is. Ask Bessie Beider - N9QIT, Al Drobac - KB9NRS, Mat Planning - KB9PRC or some of the others.

And speaking of volunteering, I could use some new articles for the 'Chatter. It wouldn't hurt to have a few new contributors. Actually, it's quite something to have something of yours published and we can do it.



# WB9GYT'S Tower Finally Completed

**W**e are happy to announce that Rick Kissell, WB9GYT, has finally gotten his tower and beam up! The apparently endless project began back in 1997, shortly after the City of Milwaukee passed a new ordinance that made it much more difficult to obtain building permits in residential areas for towers over 40 feet in height.

When MRAC member Scott Frakes, AA9VC brought the new ordinance to the Club's attention, Scott and Rick worked with "Badger State Smokes Signals" editor Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ to bring it to the attention of the American Radio Relay League. That effort, according to Kissell, "brought detailed promises of action from the ARRL, but it all essentially fizzled out." That prompted WB9GYT to decide that it was "now or never" for getting a tower up himself. After talking with Rick McGaver NK9G of the Greater Milwaukee DX Association and getting promises of assistance, WB9GYT chose to go for it. He went down to City Hall before the new ordinance went into effect and got his building permit before the new ordinance went into effect.

Rick had previously obtained at a substantial discount (through careful monitoring of the Usenet ham radio news groups) a used Sommer XP-507 beam and Tailtwister rotor. The Sommer is a trapless log-periodic covering all ham bands from 40 through 10 meters. With the addition of the 6m element (which Rick later purchased directly from the manufacturer), it has 10 elements on a 15 foot boom. The length of the longest element is 36.8 feet, and the antenna's wind load is 11 square feet. (It's a good thing he got a Tailtwister! -Ed.)

After consulting with NK9G and other local DXers, WB9GYT

decided to hoist all that into the air with a Rohn HDBX-48 tower. The HDBX-48 is Rohn's heaviest self-supporting tower, rated at 18 square feet maximum wind load.

Rick dug the 3 x 3 x 4.5 feet deep hole for the base himself, with a shovel and pickaxe. NK9G poured the cement and erected the tower. (A ginpole was used.) He also installed the Tailtwister and a four-foot-long aircraft-grade heavy-duty aluminum mast in the top section. NK9G told WB9GYT to call him when he finished assembling the beam. That was a real stumbling block for Kissell, whose only prior experience with antennas was with verticals.

After long months of scratching his head, it finally dawned on Rick to ask for help. Former MRAC president Ed Wille W9PWG said he'd give him a hand. Jim Tromblay WB9LNU stepped in for Ed and assembled the XP-508 in Rick's garage one afternoon this summer. Delighted, Rick Kissell e-mailed NK9G to tell him the beam was ready for mounting, only to learn that someone had borrowed NK9G's gin-pole and bent it into a "u"! With the approach of autumn, Kissell began feeling pretty desperate. (NK9G said gin-poles designed to work with the more common 25 and 45-G-series Rohn towers would not work with an HDBX.) Rick checked into various alternatives, including renting a crane ("300 bucks, minimum"). Finally he remembered the lesson he'd learned earlier—ask for help!

When "Hamateur Chatter" ran a piece indicating WB9GYT needed a gin-pole, he quickly received a phone call from MRAC member Tom Barrett, KB9QMV offering to help. Tom and Rick met at Rick's QTH on Oklahoma Avenue near 24th Street, and Tom decided that his gin-pole could prob-

ably be made to work on the HDBX-48.

On November 27, MRAC members Tom Barrett KB9QMV, John Merkl WB9PSE met at Rick's QTH along with Jim Herriges WB9RSK. Using a belt borrowed from Ed W9PWG, Tom went up the tower and affixed the gin-pole, then guided the beam up the tower as the rest pulled it up. Eventually Jim WB9RSK joined Tom on the tower, and they eventually wrestled it into position. While they were doing so, John Merkl asked Rick if he'd ever been to the top of his own tower. Rick answered, "Hell, no! What do you think I am—crazy?" and after laughing nervously, John and Rick went back to watching KB9QMV and WB9RSK working 48 feet above them. Their work was facilitated by the XP-508's adjustable mast-clamp, which allowed them to place the beam on the mast with the antenna parallel to the tower.

Once the XP-508 was mounted on the tower, but prior to getting the rotor working, Rick did a few on-the-air tests on 10 m CW and quickly worked a 13-year-old in Guayaquil, Ecuador with the log-periodic fixed to the south. That wasn't too surprising, but then WB9GYT worked a station in Barbados, the easternmost island in the Caribbean. That was definitely too far to the southeast to be in the beam's main lobe. Rick was even more surprised when he later found that he'd perviously turned his TS-940's power output to minimum to do some SWR testing. So he worked Barbados with about 5 watts to an antenna some 50 degrees off-target! (Editor: See the DX report elsewhere in this issue for a better idea of this antenna's performance.)

continued on page 9

Tom Barrett KB9QMV has returned to Rick's QTH several times for final SWR adjustments (John WB9PSE lent Rick his MFJ-259 antenna analyzer), getting the coax into Rick's shack, etc.

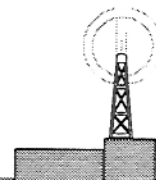
Rick WB9GYT would like to extend his sincerest thanks to Rick McGaver NK9G, Jim Tromblay

WB9LNU, Tom Barrett KB9QMV, Jim Herriges WB9RSK, and John Merkl WB9PSE for all their help in this project:

"Thanks guys— there's no way I could have gotten this done without you! I'd also like to thank my wonderful XYL Annie for not divorcing me during this process, and

Mother Nature for giving us some unusually mild weather in November and December. I'm sure glad that January blizzard didn't come a few weeks earlier," Rick said.

— 30 —



## Interesting contacts made

by Rick Kissell - WB9GYT

December and early January 1998 & 1999.

DATE	TIME	STATION	FREQ	RST	QTH
12/12/98	2013	LU1VEW	28.514	59	southern Argentina
12/12/98	2014	LU9VY	28.520	59	southern Argentina
12/12/98	0219	LU5WW	28.538	59	extreme so. Argentina
12/12/98	2122	LU5VV	28.572	55	southern Argentina
12/13/98	1503	9A2AJ	28.005	599	Croatia
12/13/98	1814	CE3F	28.040	599	central Chile
12/13/98	2146	CW3C	28.013	559	Montevideo, Uruguay
12/14/98	1859	LU9GBR	28.025	439	Formosa Prov., N Argentina
12/14/98	1911	CX3CY	28.015	439	Montevideo, Uruguay
12/19/98	1905	YN1/TI2CF	28.020	599	Costa Rican in Nicaragua
12/21/98	2244	ZK3RW	28.029	339	Tokelau Island (s. Pacific)
12/24/98	2156	HC4NJS	28.012	449	Bahía, n.w. Ecuador
12/27/98	1549	EA8/DL7UBA	28.012	449	German in Canary Islands
12/27/98	1613	VP2MHJ	28.018	579	Montserrat, West Indies
12/27/98	1620	EA7AJR	28.015	579	Seville, Spain
12/27/98	1627	EA5FV	28.013	569	Murcia Spain
12/27/98	1632	EA5BVO	28.020	569	Murcia, Spain
12/29/98	1804	J67SL	28.017	559	St. Lucia, West Indies
12/30/98	1810	LU5OM	28.028	569	Salta Prov., n. Argentina
12/30/98	2206	CO2SX	28.004	569	Havana, Cuba
12/30/98	2312	JA1OSN/7	24.907	569	Miyagi, Japan
12/30/98	2326	JA9AA	24.900	579	Kanazawa, Japan
12/31/98	1542	SV2DFA	24.891	599	Thessalonika, n. Greece
12/31/98	1659	TK/DL7HZ	24.895	56	German on Corsica
12/31/98	2138	XQ0YA	28.009	449	Easter Island, s. Pacific
01/1/99	1903	6W6JX	28.021	589	Senegal, w. Africa
01/2/99	1552	EA9IE	24.953	58	Ceuta (Sp. enc. in Morocco)
01/2/99	1618	EA7OO	24.899	569	Granada, Spain
01/2/99	1739	TF3DX	28.003	339	Reykjavik, Iceland
01/2/99	1810	EA8/DJ4EJ	28.011	589	German in Canary Islands
01/2/99	1818	EA8/OH2BYS	28.003	599	Finn in Canary Islands
01/4/99	2314	CE0Y/JA7KXD	28.022	559	Jap. on Easter Island
01/5/99	183	9J2BO	28.010	39	Lusaka, Zambia
01/7/99	1256	T77C	18.072	589	San Marino (inside Italy)
01/7/99	1417	9A1HCD	28.016	569	Croatia
01/7/99	1421	IS0OMH	28.006	449	Sardinia
01/7/99	2325	ZL9CI	24.893	449	Chatham Island, s. Pacific

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# HAMMATEUR CHATTER

FROM SPARK TO SPACE

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